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Date: August 31, 2001

By: Kay L. Gaviglio
PATENT

Docket No. GC477C1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **RECEIVED**

In re Application of)
Wang et al.)
Serial No. 09/273,957)
Filed: March 22, 1999)
For: Novel Phenol Oxidizing Enzyme)
Enzymes)

SEP 06 2001
Group Art Unit: 1652
TECH CENTER 1600/2900
Examiner: M. A. Walicka, Ph.D.

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks. This response is considered timely. A petition for a two-month extension of time is concurrently filed herewith.

In the Claims

Please replace the following amended claims with a clean copy of said claims. A marked-up version is appended hereto.

B₁

3.(Once amended) A purified phenol oxidizing enzyme obtained from a *Stachybotrys chartarum* or a *Stachybotrys parvispora*, wherein said purified enzyme exhibits an increase in apparent molecular weight after boiling, as determined by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and is capable of modifying the color associated with a dye or a colored compound.